



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Culpeper Police Participate in Click-It-Or-Ticket**

The Culpeper Police Department is again participating in the annual Click-It-Or-Ticket initiative designed to urge motorists and passengers to wear seatbelts.

“It takes just a few seconds to click the seatbelt and possibly save someone from serious injury or death,” said Culpeper Police Chief Chris Jenkins. “It is a proven fact that wearing a seatbelt not only saves lives but also helps prevent serious injury.”

From May 19 through June 1, Culpeper Police plan to conduct saturation patrols looking for seatbelt violations as part of the annual Click-It-Or-Ticket initiative.

In 2012, Culpeper County recorded 658 crashes, with 14 fatalities. During that same period 445 people were injured in accidents, 43 were not wearing seatbelts, according to DMV.

The upcoming Memorial Day holiday is the first major summer holiday of the season. Families take to the road for their summer vacation. Some will not make it to that vacation or back home.

During the 2013 Memorial Day weekend, seven people lost their lives on Virginia roadways, according to the Virginia State Police.

Seatbelts prevent ejections during a crash. Last year in Virginia, more than half of all traffic fatalities, or 310 deaths, involved unrestrained drivers or passengers. Most of the unrestrained accidents happened between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.

“There is no reason that many people should die because they didn’t take the time to buckle up,” said Jenkins. “Using a seatbelt is the single most important way for you or your family to avoid serious injury or death.”

According to state code, any driver and any other person at least 18 years of age, and occupying the front seat of a motor vehicle with a safety belt system, shall wear the safety belt at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion on any public highway. Children under the age of 8 are required by law to be in a safety seat (such as a booster seat) while traveling in a vehicle.

“Back seat passengers need to buckle up as well,” said Chief Jenkins. “They are not immune from injury or death during a crash.”

Throughout the year, the police department offers assistance with the proper installation of child safety seats free of charge.

“Take time to buckle up, please,” said Jenkins. “It could save a life.”

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Attached: Click-It-Or-Ticket logo